

March 5, 2017

Dear Co-Chair Kennedy, Co-Chair Miner, Co-Chair Demicco, Vice Chair Flexer, Vice Chair Gresko, Vice Chair Somers, Ranking Member Harding, and Honorable Members of the Environment Committee.

I am an avid hunter, outdoorsman and conservationist. I care about our wildlife, which is why I support science based management and vote:

- 1) **Support SB 522** -- would allow bear hunting, which I strongly support. The bear population in CT should be managed by the DEEP and wildlife biologists working for the state. Politicians and citizens with no background knowledge or training in wildlife management are not qualified to make decisions on sustainability and health of the bear population within our state. As bear populations continue to grow, human and bear interactions increase as well. Hunting provides a means of keeping the bear population in check. In addition, bears that are not hunted become unafraid of humans and thus more likely to attack as population grows. To maintain a cohesive balance of bear and human coexistence within the state hunting is the best option.

- 2) **Support HB 5499** -- would expand Sunday hunting to allow use of shotguns, rifles, and muzzleloaders, which I strongly support. There is no logical justification for outlawing hunting on Sundays on private land. The no hunting Sunday law is outdated and without merit. Private land is not open to everyone. It is private and the decision to allow hunting any day of the week on such land should be up to the landowner not the state. As a husband, father, and provider for my family it is difficult to find time for myself. Like most of us, weekends are my only time off from work, leaving only Saturdays currently as a time I can enjoy hunting. As we all know, hunters pay a lot of money in license fees each year which goes to wildlife management. We deserve the right to hunt any day of the week.

Respectfully,

Daniel Bulan

Eastford, CT

